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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Journalists and the CIA

The Associated Press report in The Post (April 11) of Admiral Stansfield Turner's speech to the American Society of Newspaper Editors disappointed me.

The report was correct when it said that "CIA Director Stansfield Turner yesterday defended the Carter administration's policy of allowing the spy agency to use American foreign correspondents." What the story failed to say in its remaining nine paragraphs was this salient point, emphasized by Mr. Turner: that no foreign correspondent would be approached by the CIA without the personal approval of the director of the CIA.

Later, the story reports that "members of the ASNE strongly disagreed with Turner." That sentence seems to imply that the members who were present (all of them) disagreed with Mr. Turner.

Such was not the case. I was not

alone when I told Admiral Turner after his talk that I would not only agree to serve under the special circumstances which he outlined, but would be proud to do so.

The AP story dwelled only on one aspect of Mr. Turner's detailed speech. There was no reference to other points that at least some of us in the audience felt would be considered more important by the general public than the parochial issue that alone was dealt with in the story.

As an editor, I am confronted frequently with criticism that one of our news stories is biased. I've tended to discount these critics. This firsthand experience will make me more understanding of criticisms and more diligent in demands upon my reporters for fairness.

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